



**FEMA**

**MINUTES OF THE  
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)**

<b>DATE &amp; TIME:</b>	September 1, 2005 10:30 a.m.
<b>LOCATION:</b>	NHTSA, FAA Building Washington, DC
<b>MEMBER AGENCY REPRESENTATION:</b>	<b>Department of Homeland Security</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Agriculture</b> No representation
	<b>Department of Commerce (DOC)</b> No representation
	<b>Department of Defense (DOD)</b> No representation
	<b>Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</b> Ms. Nancy Romano, AS Subcommittee Chair National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)*  Mr. Dan Kavanaugh, HRSA  Ms. Tina Turgel, HRSA,  Ms. Blanca Fuertes, HRSA  Ms. Lisa Delaney, NIOSH
	<b>Department of Interior</b> No representation

	<b>Department of Justice (DOJ)</b> No representation
	<b>Department of Labor</b> No representation
	<b>Department of Transportation (DOT)</b> Mr. Drew Dawson National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)  Mr. Dave Bryson, NHTSA  Ms. Susan McHenry, NHTSA  Ms. Laurie Flaherty, NHTSA  Mr. Gamunu Wijetunge, NHTSA  Ms. Thelma Kuska, NHTSA
	<b>Department of Veteran Affairs</b> No Representation
	<b>Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)</b> No Representation
	<b>Federal Communications Commission</b> No Representation
	<b>General Services Administration (GSA)</b> Mr. John McDonald*
	<b>Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute – Fort Mann</b> LTC Linda Hill*
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES PRIVATE SECTOR:</b>	<b>American Ambulance Association</b> Mr. Kurt Krumperman
	<b>AAMS</b> Ms. Dawn Mancuso Mr. Chris Eastlee Mr. Dan Gencarelli

	<b>American Integrated Training Systems</b> Mr. Billy Rutherford
	<b>Homeland Security Funding Week</b> Mr. J.J. Smith
	<b>IAFC</b> Mr. Bill Bullock* Mr. Lucian Denton
	<b>Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System</b> Ms. Rene Fechter
	<b>National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)</b> Mr. Craig Sharman Mr. Joe Robinson
	<b>VFSI</b> Mr. Rick Patrick Mr. Anthony Deaven
	<b>American Society Testing &amp; Materials (ASTM)</b> Mr. Pete Chambers*
	<b>Fairfax County Fire &amp; Safety</b> Mr. Dan Grave
	<b>AMSAT</b> Mr. Bruce Jackson*
	<b>Dynamic Science</b> Mr. Joe Callan*

*\*Dial-In Participants*

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ HANDOUTS**

Mr. Drew Dawson from NHTSA, acting as meeting chair on behalf of the United States Fire Administration (unable to attend and to be represented due to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts), welcomed the group.

Mr. Dawson briefly talked about recent attention focused on the new legislation involving the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS). He stressed that this meeting was not the reconstituted version of FICEMS but a continuation of the existing FICEMS. Mr. Dawson explained that there will be some period of time before the actual conversion to the new FICEMS takes place. An update will be given on the new legislation during the NHTSA update later in the meeting.

Each participant both present and on conference call introduced themselves.

Mr. Dawson explained that there was a change to the agenda format. He then asked Lisa Delaney from NIOSH/CDC to give a brief overview on the growing concern over the pandemic flu plan and give the U.S. government's response.

Ms. Delaney began by stating that the CDC had been working on a separate plan for several years and now it was being merged with HHS' plan. The CDC will have the updated plan on its website in the October/November timeframe. There is a short deadline to complete the plan and HHS is currently awaiting clearance.

Ms. Delaney continued by commenting that there has been confusion with the avian flu epidemic and how it falls in line with flu plan here in the U.S.

Mr. Dawson asked if there was information relevant to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers on the CDC website concerning this topic. Ms. Delaney answered that as of right now there was not, but there is a link to a site that will provide information.

Mr. Richard Patrick asked Ms. Delaney if there is any information she can offer to groups traveling abroad.

Ms. Delaney explained that there is currently no vaccine in place and that the avian flu hit Russia pretty hard, but as long as there is no interaction; no transmission will take place. Protective measures should be implemented.

Mr. Dawson asked if names could be submitted to be involved in a peer review. He also asked Ms. Delaney to find out if CDC would provide info to disseminate to those traveling to countries where there is viral contamination.

CDC's influenza web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

Canada's flu plan: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cpip-pclcpi/>

Mr. Dawson asked Ms. Delaney to provide information related to the pandemic flu epidemic. The following handouts have been provided (see attached):

- HHS
  - National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO)
  - Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness Plan
- CDC
  - Influenza Fact Sheet
  - Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Fact Sheet
  - Information About Influenza Pandemics
- Medline Plus

## Information Fact Sheet

The other handouts given throughout the meeting have been attached.

- NHTSA Emergency Medical Services Division – Summer 2005 Report
- Sec 10202 – Emergency Medical Services article
- EMSC Program – Grant Program Sheet

## **II. REVIEW OF PAST MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Dawson requested a review and comments to the June meeting minutes. No comments were made and a motion was made to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion was passed and the FICEMS minutes for the June meeting were approved and published.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

- There were no reports of old business or open action items.

## **IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Ambulance Safety

Ms. Nancy Romano, Chairman – Ambulance Safety (AS) Subcommittee - Ms. Romano gave a summary of the June AS Subcommittee meeting. She reported that the AS Subcommittee conducted a teleconference with Billy Rutherford presenting on the use of training simulators and that his current updated efforts will be reported on later in the day. Ms. Romano also reported on a webinar and teleconference conducted by Nadine Levick that was provided for members of the community concerning ambulance safety. Dave Bryson of NHTSA is in the planning phase of the national conference is currently welcoming and receiving emails of questions and concerns from participants. Ms. Romano concluded with an overview of the agenda items for the AS Subcommittee meeting later in the day which included an update of the ambulance crash safety data presented by Paul Moore. No comments were made.

## **V. MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS**

HRSA –Ms. Blanca Fuertes/Dan Kavanaugh/Tina Turgel

- Ms. Fuertes reported on the status of the Rural EMS and Trauma Technical Assistance Center (REMSTTAC) contract for rural and EMS technical assistance. A Contractor has agreed to all of the proposed changes and work is continued on the expired contract while in negotiations. There are two town hall meetings scheduled: September – NE region. Vermont EMS Director will act as moderator. The NE region meeting will contain a series of webcasts to Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire and all of New England. The second town hall meeting will take place in the Appalachian region; places TBD. Eight different publications have been

produced and we are assisting in the development of two products for the REMSTATC Training and Assistance Plan. The anticipated date of availability is August 2006. A rural webcast was conducted with 85 sites participating; it was very successful.

- Mr. Kavanaugh reported that the amount for the three year pediatric emergency care grants is up to \$115K; applications are due November 2, 2005. The main focus is that all criteria are met for performance measures of pediatric emergency care. There are 4 cooperative agreements of \$700K each, containing 4 research nodes. The EMSC program budget was zeroed out in the President's budget but it looks like the House and the Senate will make recommendations to be included in the Administration's budget.

NIOSH: Nancy Romano

- Evaluations on patient compartment in ambulances are still being analyzed.
- Paul Moore will present an update at the AS Subcommittee meeting later today.

NHTSA: Ms. Laurie Flaherty/ Mr. Dave Bryson/ Ms. Susan McHenry / Mr. Gamunu Wijetunge/ Mr. Drew Dawson.

- Ms. Flaherty reported on the next generation 911 system. The Program is in its second year of the 3 year project. NHTSA is in the process of developing a concept of operations document. The next phase is the Intelligent Transportation Systems Web site that will include the transmission of voice, data, video and photographs and enable access with any communications device. The URL for this initiative is <http://www.its.dot.gov/ng911/index.htm>
- Mr. Drew Dawson indicated that they are working with DOC and have limited funding for the effort.
- Mr. Dave Bryson reported that the EMS National Scope of Practice Model document was posted on the website the last week of August. The final draft will be submitted to NHTSA for review in September and will also be available on the website upon approval.
- Ms. Susan McHenry reported that testing of the National EMS information system database is under way. The database will be housed at NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis. The NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center contract was awarded this month. The key activities of the center is to keep the website ([www.nemsis.org](http://www.nemsis.org)) up-to-date, provide reference materials, update standards, developmental tools, normal technical support, maintenance of the data set and conducting visits with different states. On September 28, 2005, there will be a webcast hosted by NHTSA to announce and roll out the new data center.
- Mr. Wijetunge provided an update on the EMS Workforce Project for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As part of a joint effort with HRSA, NHTSA has contracted with the University of California San Francisco to perform qualitative and quantitative analysis of the current EMS workforce data. Dr. Susan Chapman of the UCSF has been subcontracted to established a log and online questionnaire. It will be posted on EMSworkforce.com. More content will be added within the next couple of weeks. NIMS EMS Credentialing workgroup will work closely with the EMS community. The first meeting will be in Pasadena, CA. There will be a conference call today.

- Mr. Drew Dawson reported on the DOT reauthorization legislation and the establishment of the new FICEMS organization. This new direction will require a transition from the current FICEMS format to the new format in which NHTSA will take the lead in implementing and staffing. The Statutorily created FICEMS will have the responsibility to individually vote on mandatory reports to the congress. Mr. Kurt Krumperman asked if there was a particular committee in the Senate the report will go to. Mr. Dawson explained that this question, and others, are still be explored. In terms of scope, does it affect the timeline? Mr. Dawson explained the timetable: first step – core content; second step – module submitted; third step – national EMS standards will be built upon the National Scope of Practice (SOP).

## **VI. REPORTS – OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

National Volunteer Fire Council: Mr. Craig Sharman

Mr. Sharman reported on the establishment of a relief fund hotline for assistance to those impacted by hurricane Katrina. Assistance will focus on departments and not individuals. Mr. Sharman is monitoring the DHS appropriations bill for impacts to funding of volunteer EMS services.

American Ambulance Association: Mr. Kurt Krumperman

Mr. Krumperman has been talking to AAA whom has been monitoring the budget developments for the flow of money to the EMS community.

AAMS: Ms. Dawn Mancuso

Ms. Mancuso reported on air transportation EMS. There is a joint working group focused on risk management techniques. Ms. Mancuso explained the similar challenges her organization is facing that AAA is experiencing in regards to working with the FAA/NTSB in civilian ambulances safety. AMRAM held a conference in July focusing on the adaptation of night vision glasses for night flights and ways to streamline the approval process.

International Association of Fire Chiefs: Mr. Lucian Denton

Mr. Denton indicated that his organization is helping to facilitate teams of volunteers in New Orleans. Mr. Denton sees the need for a massive distribution of the vaccine to contain the pandemic flu. Mr. Bill Bullock explains that because of the potential pandemic risk there is a need to have active education specifically dealing with migrant birds.

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS REVIEW**

### **Review of Action Items from this meeting:**

- Drew Dawson, NHTSA requested all conference call-in participants email their updated contact information to Natek.

- Lisa Delaney, NIOSH was requested to submit her contact information (see below) so that names could be submitted for peer review process and handouts (attached) to Natek.

**LT Lisa Delaney MS, CIH**  
**Industrial Hygienist**  
**U.S. Public Health Service**  
**NIOSH/CDC**  
**1600 Clifton Road, MS E-51**  
**Atlanta, GA 30333**  
**(P) 404.498.2516**  
**(F) 404.498.2526**

- Dave Bryson, NHTSA was requested to get email addresses and websites to Natek (see below.)

**Canada's Flu Plan:** <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cpip-pclcpi/>  
**CDC's Influenza web site:** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

HRSA offered to host the December 2005 FICEMS meeting in Rockville, MD. Details of the location and logistics will be provided as they become available.

## **IX. SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS FOLLOWING THIS MEETING**

Ambulance Safety Subcommittee meets at 1:00

## **X. NEXT MEETING**

December 1, 2005, 10:30 a.m.

### ***Proposed Location:***

HRSA  
Rockville, MD.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.